

the Republican majority in the State House of Florida to 65 versus 55.

Mr. Speaker, as most people know, 1996 was the year for the first time since Reconstruction that the Republican Party had taken the State House in Florida, and now the State House majority is 65. My congratulations go out to Deborah and to all the Republicans who got involved in that race.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a quote from Tom Slade where he said, "Perhaps a key moment came in the endorsement of Martinez," the Democrat, "by one of the local editorial boards." The endorsement favored the Democrat in the race because of her willingness to raise taxes.

Mr. Speaker, Deborah Tamargo won on Republican principles of less taxes and less government.

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IRS REFORM: WELCOME ABOARD, MR. PRESIDENT

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, during the congressional recess I was back home meeting with constituents at townhall meetings. A recurring frustration expressed to me was, "you Republicans are the ones that proposed tax cuts, and you got them through; the President, who opposed them all along the way, now is taking credit for it. You Republicans proposed balancing the budget; the President opposed it all along the way, and now he is taking credit for it."

I always smile at such comments, because I view it as proof that the Republican agenda and ideals are winning.

Now, with IRS reform at the top of our agenda, we Republicans have pledged to the people of this country that we are going to overhaul from top to bottom the way the IRS conducts business. We are going to simplify the Tax Code, and make what is left of the IRS accountable to taxpayers. Since we made this proposal, the President and his advisers said they were going to oppose us. They defended the IRS and claimed it was running satisfactorily now.

Lo and behold, today, I picked up the Los Angeles Times. The front page story reports that "after weeks of vehement opposition," the President "has made an abrupt reversal" and is now supporting our call for IRS reform.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that in the near future the President will forget his original position, and will be taking full credit for our IRS proposals, too. When I think of President Clinton's tendencies in this regard, I am reminded of the sign Ronald Reagan kept on his desk: "There is no end to what a person can accomplish if they do not mind who gets the credit."

IRS reform. Welcome aboard, Mr. President.

SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AMERICA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the success of America is a direct result of its public school system. We were among the first nations in the world to provide for universal public education for all our children. I would venture to say that the majority of Members of this House and the overwhelming majority of their staff are products of the public school system in this country.

Why then, Mr. Speaker, is the Republican leadership of this House so hostile to our public schools. Let me say a word about the public school system in the Third Congressional District of Massachusetts, which I represent. In the city of Worcester, the families and community enthusiastically embrace the public school system. Eighty-seven percent of the children eligible for grades K through 12 attend public schools.

Working together as a community, Worcester School Superintendent Jim Garvey, teachers, parents, business leaders, area colleges and universities, and neighborhood groups have created a school district with topflight teachers providing education to every child.

This effort deserves our respect and our praise. Mr. Speaker, I will not support the majority's plan to dismantle our public education system. I urge my colleagues to reject these efforts on the House floor this week.

EDUCATION

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, reading, writing, and arithmetic are the basic building blocks of education. Today, I would like to talk about an education issue that just does not add up, no matter how we do the math.

A recent study found that 14 billion is allocated to the Department of Education for elementary and secondary programs. Of that \$14 billion, \$2 billion never reaches local school districts. This must be some crazy form of new math, because I cannot quite see how this adds up.

The Department of Education is spending our tax dollars on something our children never see in the classroom. We can apply algebra, geometry, calculus, but no matter how we look at this equation, we get the wrong answer.

That is why I support House Resolution 139, the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. This measure puts 90 percent of the Department of Education's elementary and secondary funds where they belong, in the classroom. It is pretty simple. Subtract the money from the Washington bureaucracy and add it to the local school districts. That equals better education for our

students and a better buy for taxpayers.

REFORM OF THE IRS AND TAX CODE

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to Congress, people told me that to be successful in Washington I had to know how to count my votes. I did not come to Congress to count votes. I came to make my vote count. One issue I want to speak out on today is the IRS.

Recent hearings in the Senate have only confirmed what millions of Americans have always known, the IRS is outdated, out of touch and out of control. Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder the American people are growing frustrated with the way the IRS does business. The IRS recently spent \$4 billion on a computer program which was completely unable to function because it was literally overwhelmed by a Tax Code which is too complicated and too convoluted.

How can we expect the American people to comprehend a Tax Code when a \$4 billion computer cannot?

Mr. Speaker, I raise these issues not because I wanted to indict the IRS. I raise them because I want to improve it. We owe the American people more, much more. We owe them an IRS that is reasonable and we owe them a that is readable. Mr. Speaker, the world's freest people deserve the world's fairest tax system.

I do not think that is too much to ask. Let us tear down the Tax Code and build up the American people.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1992, there was one charter school in the United States of America. Today, there are over 1000. In the next 3 years, there are expected to begin 3,000 more. What.

Is a charter school and why do they seem to be growing and seem to be so popular? A charter school is a public school. It is publicly funded, but unlike most public schools these days that have all their rules and regulations dictated by Washington bureaucrats, charter schools have their own rules, their own goals and their own set of regulations. That is why they are so popular.

Every day when I speak to a teacher, she or he tells me about the paperwork that they must do, 2 to 3 hours' worth each week to send off to Washington or to Atlanta to the State Capitol. They tell me about going to seminars where they are told not to hug children, not to touch children, never to walk into a bathroom alone with a kid because of